THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) With the objective of the all round development of the film industry, the Government has already facilitated institutional and bank finance to the film production, as well as provided the film sector with fiscal incentives to create a climate of growth. The Indian participation in Cannes film festival and market was also successful this year and played a major role in focusing on Indian cinema and promoting India as a destination for shooting and post production facilities.

(b) and (c) State Governments were *inter alia* requested to consider rationalizing the rates of Entertainment Tax so that a uniform tax structure prevailed in the country. For this purpose, the question of bringing the subject of cinema on the concurrent list was also taken up with the State Governments. However, no consensus was arrived at in the matter. In the 24th Conference of States and Union Territory Ministers of Information held in New Delhi on 21.01.2001, this issue was deliberated. In pursuance of the recommendations of this Conference, a Committee was set up for Development of the Entertainment Sector, to suggest the policy framework both at the Centre and in the States for realizing the potential of the Entertainment Sector. One of the issues discussed in this Committee was the question of rationalizing Entertainment Tax rates. As a result of the deliberations in the Committee, it has been decided to recommend that all States/ Union Territory Administrations fix a ceiling of 60% on entertainment tax.

Task Force on Conditional Access System

1444. SHRI SANJAY NIRUPAM: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROAD CASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have constituted any task force on Conditional Access System (CAS);

(b) if so, the details of the task force and the names of the members;

(c) whether the task force has started working; and

(d) if so, the terms of reference of the task force and by when, the report will be submitted?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a), (b) and (d) The Government has constituted a Task Force to examine various issues relating to the introduction of Conditional Access System. The Task Force includes, *inter-alia,* representatives of the Cable

Industry, Broadcasters, Multi Service Operators and Ministry of Consumer Affairs. It is not feasible to assign a fixed time frame for the Task Force to give its report.

The terms of reference of the Task Force, *inter-alia,* include the following:

(i) To make recommendation on the feasibility and desirability of introducing CAS for television viewing through the cable network;

(ii) To make recommendation regarding the modalities of introducing C.A.S. (in case it is found feasible and desirable) including the aspects like pricing, burden of costs and such other related issues;

(iii) To debate the issue of technology for the Set Top Boxes and whether the same could be standardised; and if so, which technology would be most apt/suitable; and

(iv) Any other issue referred to the Task Force by the Government from time to time.

(c) The Task Force has held two meetings.

Launching of Krishi Channel on DD

†1445. SHRI SURESH PACHOURI: Will the Minister of INFORMATION AND BROAD CASTING be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government are considering to launch a regular daily "Krishi Channel" on Doordarshan in order to ensure that Indian farmers are able to use modern advance technology and protect their crops, fertile land and seeds;

(b) if so, by when a decision will be taken in this regard; and

(c) if not, the reasons for not launching the "Krishi Channel" on Doordarshan?

THE MINISTER OF INFORMATION AND BROADCASTING (SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ): (a) to (c) Prasar Bharati have intimated that at present programmes to meet the information needs of farmers and rural audiences are already being telecast from various Kendras of Doordarshan in the respective regional languages on a regular basis, for five hours a day on an average. Prasar Bharati is also consulting experts to modify update contents of the agricultural programmes.

Code of Conduct for Judges

1446. SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Will the Minister of LAW, JUSTICE AND COMPANY AFFAIRS be pleased to state as in the case of Legislative and

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.